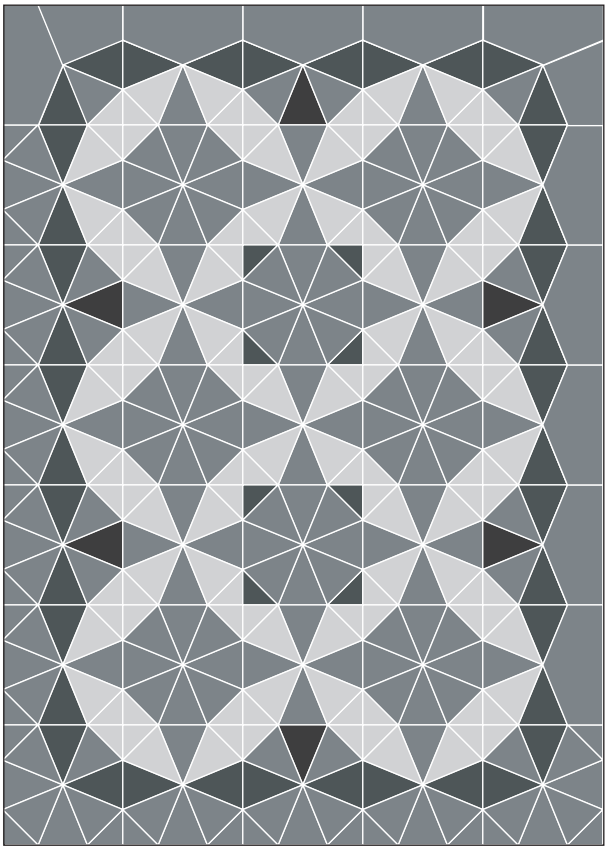
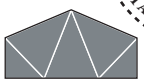
Tips for Eliminating Needless Seams in the Border

Add the fun of "moving motifs" to the Kaleidoscope block and you really create the feeling of looking into a kaleidoscope. Made with 9″ blocks, this illustrated quilt would be a great wall hanging. For any size block between 2″ and 16″, you can use one of our Kaleido-Rulers™ to cut both triangles. Here is a Kaleido-Ruler trick to eliminate a large number of needless seams in the border.



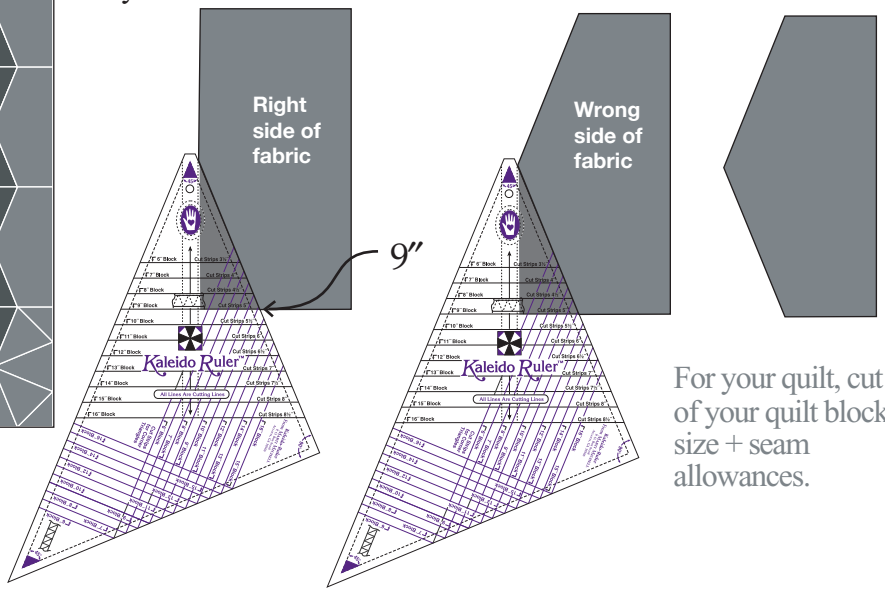
With 9″ Block, quilt is 45″ x 63″

Do you see this shape with all the seams? 

Do you see this shape in the quilt? Which would you rather piece? May I show you how to use the Kaleido-Ruler to cut the seamless shape?

My block is 9″ finished, so half a block is 4½″ x 9″, and with ¼″ seam allowances the size becomes 5″ x 9 ½″.

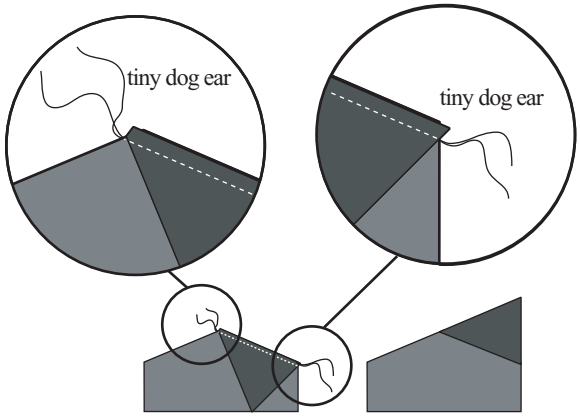
For my quilt, cut a rectangle 5″ x 9 ½″. Then use the Kaleido-Ruler to cut away ½ of a finished Kaleido-Angle from 2 corners. This is very easy!



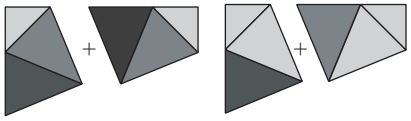
For your quilt, cut ½ of your quilt block size + seam allowances.

To Make the Border Blocks

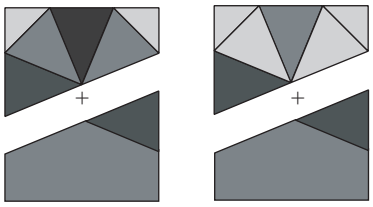
1. Add a Kaleido-Angle to the pieces cut above to make half blocks..



2. There are two different block colorations in the borders. Make the other half of each Kaleidoscope block using the appropriate pieces.

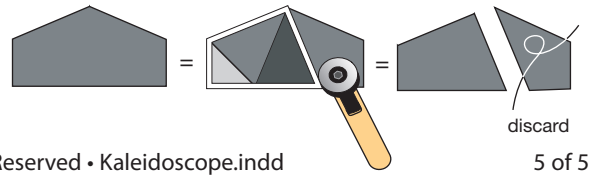


3. Assemble the two halves to make the border blocks.



4. What about this shape in the corner?

…use a pieced quarter block as a pattern!



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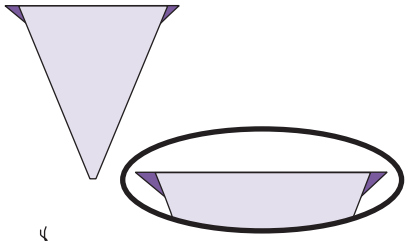
Easier when you are sewing with a clear or open-toed presser foot.

How to Assemble a Kaleidoscope Block

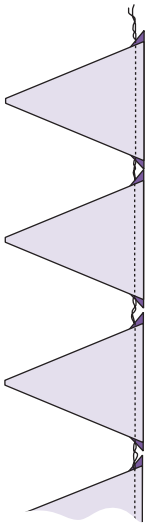
(condensed)

From Marti Michell™

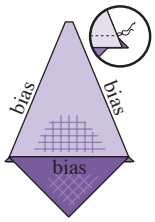
1. Position Kaleido-Angles on top of corners.



2. Chain piece.

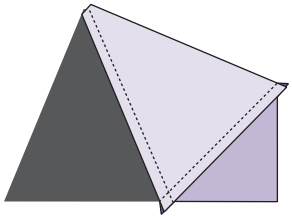


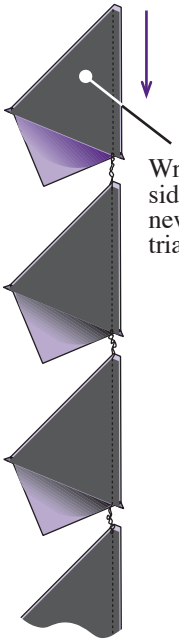
Press toward corners–regardless of colors.



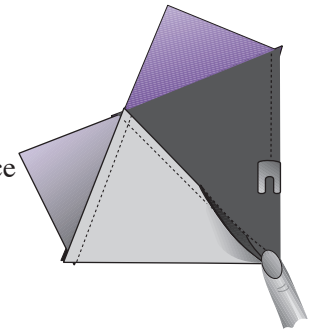
3. Add second Kaleido-Angle to pieced corner units. With the new triangle on top, stitch from tip to broad base.

Press away from square corners, regardless of colors.

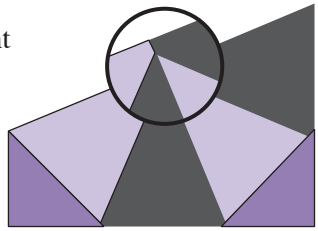




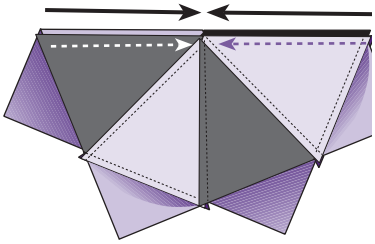
4. Join quarters into pairs. Stop stitching ¼″ from point at seamline. Hold seam allowance out of the way.



Looking at the seams, press clockwise. Looking at the right side, one half should look like this.

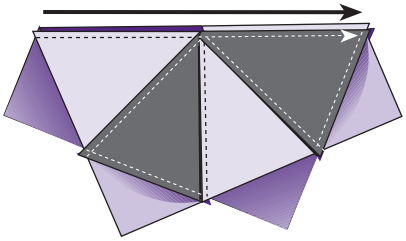


5. Sew halves together in 2 seams from the edges to the center…

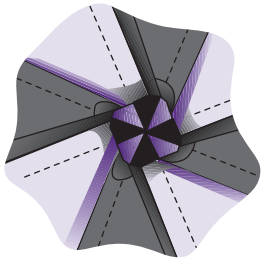


OR

Sew halves together in one seam from edge to edge.



6. Press all seam allowances clockwise. Make a swirl at the center point.



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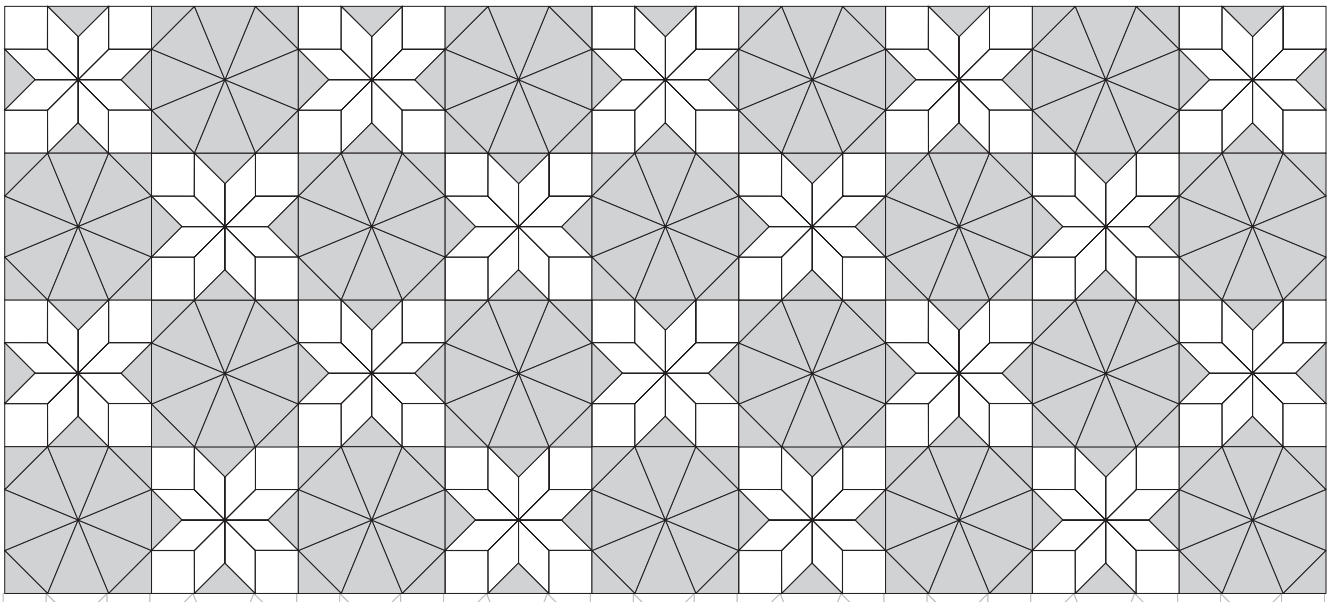

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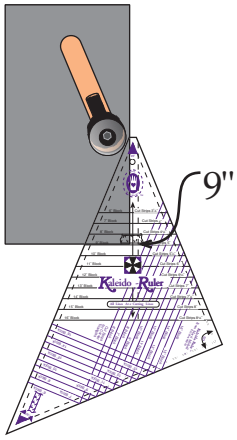
Kaleido-Ruler™ Cut-Away Border Tricks

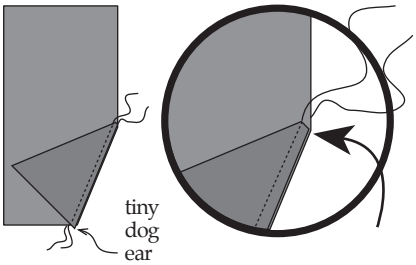
Create a beautiful diamond border in two or three colors with the **From Marti Michell** Kaleido-Ruler. Here is a trick for any size block between 2″ and 16″. May I show you how to use the Kaleido-Ruler to cut this clever border?

For illustration purposes, our border block is 9″ finished, so half a finished block is 4½″ x 9″. Add ¼″ seam allowances and the size becomes 5″ x 9 ½″. So, for our example, we would cut a rectangle 5″ x 9 ½″. (For your quilt, cut ½ of your quilt block size + seam allowances.) Then use the Kaleido-Ruler to cut away ½ of a finished Kaleido-Angle from one corner. This is very easy!

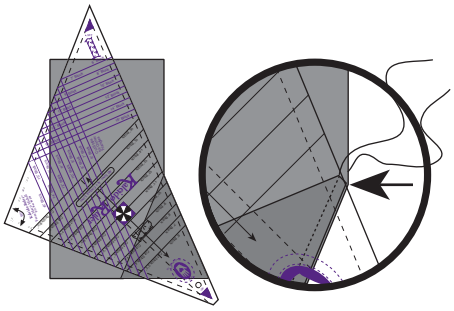


Make the Border Blocks

1. Add a Kaleido-Angle.



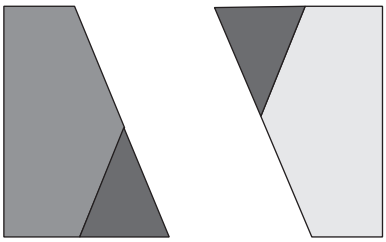
Press.



Align blunt corner of Kaleido-Angle with newly cut corner.

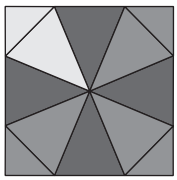
2. Line up Kaleido-Ruler along the edge of the Kaleido-Angle and trim off the other corner; or the second corner can be cut away like the first side.

3. Now you have ½ of a Kaleidoscope block.



Make the Corner Blocks:

Make 4 Kaleidoscope Blocks using normal cutting and construction techniques.



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